

STATE OF WASHINGTON  
GAMBLING COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Suspension of the License  
to Conduct Gambling Activities of:

Ha (John) Thanh Nguyen  
Seattle, Washington,

Licensee.

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) No. CR 2011-00983  
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) **NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE**  
) **CHARGES AND OPPORTUNITY FOR**  
) **AN ADJUDICATIVE PROCEEDING**  
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I.

The Washington State Gambling Commission issued Ha (John) Thanh Nguyen license number 68-24612, authorizing Card Room Employee activity, formerly at Wizards Casino in Burien. This license expires on May 18, 2012, and was issued subject to the licensee compliance with state gambling laws and regulations.

II.

David Trujillo, Deputy Director of the Washington State Gambling Commission, charges the licensee with the following violations of the Washington State Gambling Act, 9.46 RCW, and WAC Title 230:

1) On July 29, 2011, the licensee, while working as a poker floor supervisor, took approximately \$1,000 in chips from the poker podium imprest bank<sup>1</sup> (imprest bank) to play poker without paying for them. The licensee also took approximately \$2,750 in cash from the imprest bank and did the following:

- a) On two different occasions, he took the money directly to the Progressive Fortune Pai Gow (Pai Gow) table and placed bets.
- b) On six different occasions, he placed the money in his pocket and then later used the cash to place bets at the Pai Gow table.
- c) On two occasions, he gave the money to customers at the Pai Gow table to place bets for him.

Throughout his shift, the licensee would also count the money in the imprest bank and occasionally put money from his wallet into the imprest bank.

2) Through his actions, the licensee gave credit, loans, or gifts which made it possible for him and other players to participate in gambling activities, and he failed to collect the price required to participate in the gambling activity in full before he and other players participated in gambling

<sup>1</sup> An imprest bank is where a certain amount of money is retained at all times. Wizards Casino maintains chips and cash totaling \$11,500 in the poker podium. The cash is used to redeem gaming chips when poker players cash out and the chips are sold to players to play poker. There is always an even exchange of cash and chips.

activities, in violation of WAC 230-06-035.

3) Also on July 29, 2011, the licensee asked for and received from Wizards Casino a \$1,500 loan which he put into the imprest bank to reconcile the chips and money he took to play poker and Pai Gow. As a result, at the end of the shift, the imprest bank was at its proper amount and no money was reported as missing from the imprest bank.

4) The licensee's actions were recorded on surveillance video, and he admitted to a Commission Special Agent that he knew his actions were wrong.

5) The licensee's actions demonstrate that he poses a threat to the effective regulation of gambling, or creates or increases the likelihood of unfair or illegal practices, methods, and activities in the conduct of gambling activities.

6) Therefore, grounds exist to suspend Ha (John) Thanh Nguyen's license under RCW 9.46.075(1) and WAC 230-03-085(1) and (8).

**RCW 9.46.075 Denial, suspension, or revocation of license, application, or permit**

The Commission may deny an application, or suspend or revoke any license or permit issued by it, for any reason or reasons, it deems to be in the public interest. These reasons shall include, but not be limited to, cases wherein the applicant or licensee, or any person with any interest therein. (The following subsections apply.)

(1) Has violated, failed or refused to comply with the provisions, requirements, conditions, limitations or duties imposed by chapter 9.46 RCW and any amendments thereto, or any rules adopted by the Commission pursuant thereto, or when a violation of any provision of chapter 9.46 RCW, or any Commission rule, has occurred upon any premises occupied or operated by any such person or over which he or she has substantial control.

**WAC 230-03-085 Denying, suspending, or revoking an application, license or permit**

(The following subsections apply.)

We may deny, suspend, or revoke any application, license or permit, when the applicant, licensee, or anyone holding a substantial interest in the applicant's or licensee's business or organization:

(1) Commits any act that constitutes grounds for denying, suspending, or revoking licenses or permits under RCW 9.46.075.

(8) Poses a threat to the effective regulation of gambling, or creates or increases the likelihood of unfair or illegal practices, methods, and activities in the conduct of gambling activities, as demonstrated by: (a) Prior activities; or (b) Criminal record; or (c) Reputation; or (d) Habits; or (e) Associations.

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(The following subsections apply.)

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Ha (John) Thanh Nguyen  
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES  
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